

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PAPALIGOURAS AND RALLIS ADDRESS NEW DEMOCRACY ON
DOMESTIC THEMES

REF: A. ATHENS 3066, B. ATHENS 3130

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO CARAMANLIS' GENERAL SURVEY
(REFTEL A) AND TO DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S SPEECH ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS (REFTEL B), MINISTER OF
COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION RALLIS WERE
THE MAIN SPEAKERS ON DOMESTIC ISSUES AT THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY
(PRE-CONVENTION" EARLIER THIS WEEK. PAPALIGOURAS ADVOCATED AN
ESSENTIALLY FREE ECONOMIC SYSTEM RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF A
SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND EMPHASIZED THE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS
OF AN ECONOMY WHICH IN THE AGGREGATE, HE CLAIMED, WAS A
"VINDICATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY." FOR HIS PART, RALLIS
SPOKE ABOUT THE RESUSCITATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES BY THE
CARAMANLIS TEAM FOLLOWING THE HAVOC OF THE JUNTA YEARS AND
UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING PROGRESS IN THIS RESPECT.

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FINALLY, IN SUMMING UP THE CONFERENCE, UNDERSECRETARY TO THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT PANAYIOTIS LAMBRIAS ACCLAIMED BOTH
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND THE GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE SUPPORT
OF THE NEW DECOMCRACY PARTY. HE REITERATED THAT GREECE BELONGS
TO THE WEST AND WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A UNITED EUROPE AND
FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH NATO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS ADDRESS COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS SPOKE OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AND STRESSED THAT ANY MEDIUM - OR LONG - TERM ECONOMIC PLANS WHICH WILL BE APPLIED BY GREEK GOVERNMENTS IN THE COMING DECADES SHOULD FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING AIMS: A) ENHANCING DEMOCRACY, B) SUPPLYING THE ARMED FORCES WITH THE NECESSARY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY, C) EXPANDING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC HORIZONS OF GREECE, ESPECIALLY ENTRY TO THE EC AND THE AREA OF THE GRADUALLY UNITING DEMOCRATIC EUROPE, D) PRESERVING NATIONAL FEATURES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OTHER DEMOCRACIES, E) IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

3. SPECIFICALLY THE MINISTER STRESSED GNP HAD RISEN BY 5.7 PERCENT IN 1975 AND 6 PERCENT IN 1976, DISTINCTLY HIGHER THAN CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR EC MEMBER COUNTRIES. (EMBASSY NOTE: THIS REFERS TO GNP AT MARKET PRICES (WHICH REFLECTS INDIRECT TAXES MINUS SUBSIDIES). THE CORRESPONDING GAINS FOR GNP AT FACTOR COST, WHICH HAS BEEN CUSTOMARILY REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY, ARE 4.1 PERCENT FOR 1975 AND 5.6 PERCENT FOR 1976.) IN FIXED CAPITAL INVESTMENT, GREECE HAD SCORED A FIGURE OF 6.5 PERCENT AND HAS BEEN SURPASSED ONLY BY DENMARK WITH 7 PERCENT. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING IN CHECK THE DEFICIT IN THE BALANCE OF CURRENT TRANSACTIONS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR HAD PROVED MOST FAVORABLE. REFERRING TO THE COST OF LIVING INDEX, HE RECALLED THAT IT ROSE BY 15.7 PERCENT IN 1975, AND BY 11.7 PERCENT IN 1976

4. ON THE BASIS THAT AN INCOMES POLICY WAS THE CORNERSTONE
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OF ANY GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY, PAPALIGOURAS NOTED THE PRIME MINISTER HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN PART IN THE GOVERNMENT INCOMES AND PRICES PLANNING. AS TO GOVERNMENT LABOR POLICY, HE STRESSED THE RESTORATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WHICH HAD BEEN ABOLISHED BY THE DICTATORSHIP

5. THE AGGREGATE RESULT OF ALL THOSE MEASURES WAS THE VINDICATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND ITS SUCCESS IN SERVING THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, HE ASSERTED. FINALLY PAPALIGOURAS UNDERLINED ALSO THAT THE STATE WOULD NOT COMPETE WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, BUT WOULD INSTEAD HELP IT. THE STATE WOULD REPLACE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ONLY IN SECTORS OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ECONOMY, WHERE IT WAS FELT PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WERE EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE INITIATIVE

6. MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION, RALLIS, STRESSED THAT THE FUTURE OF THE NATION, ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, HINGED ON THE ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES. THE PROBLEM HAD ACQUIRED EVEN

GREATER

URGENCY OWING TO GREECE'S FUTURE ENTRY TO THE EC. HE SAID THE SEVEN-YEAR DICTATORSHIP HAD CAUSED HAVOC WITH GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND RECALLED THAT BY A SERIES OF ACTS THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE TO REESTABLISH VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS BODIES, THUS MODERNIZING THE PLANNING DEPARTMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION. HE THEN DISCUSSED EDUCATION, AND RECALLED THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT WHICH HAD BEEN EXERTED IN THAT FIELD, BEGINNING WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOTIC AS THE LANGUAGE THAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION. ANOTHER DECISION OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CENTER OF TRAINING STUDIES AND EDUCATION

7. RALLIS NEXT TURNED TO JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER, AND WARNED THAT ATTACKS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE NOT ONLY HARMED IT BUT ALSO HARMED THE SENSE OF LAW ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT HAD THEREFORE TAKEN STEPS TO SAFEGUARD IT, BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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CAREFUL TO REMAIN ALWAYS WITHIN THE LIMITS PRESCRIBED BY THE CONSTITUTION. HE FINISHED BY REAFFIRMING THAT IN SPITE OF THE PROGRESS MADE, IT WAS ONLY A START AND A LONG PATH STILL LAY AHEAD

8. IN HIS SUMMARY SPEECH, UNDERSECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENCY LAMBRIAS CONGRATULATED THE CONFERENCE ON THE SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER IN WHICH BASIC PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN EXAMINED CREATIVELY AND SELF-CONFIDENTLY. HE UNDERLINED THAT THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY WAS NOT JUST ANY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, IT WAS THE RULING PARTY, AND THE GREATEST, MOST CONSISTENT AND PROGRESSIVE BODY THAT HAD EVER RULED GREECE

9. HE APPLAUDED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD INSPIRED HIS COLLABORATORS AND THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH HIS PRESENCE HAD IMBUED THE CONFERENCE. IN CONCLUSION, LAMBRIAS LISTED THE PARTY'S SIX BASIC IDEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS AS FOLLOWS: FAITH IN THE NATIONAL CONCEPT; IN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, IN SOCIAL JUSTICE, IN A FREE DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY, IN PEACEFUL EXISTENCE FOR PEOPLES, AND IN THE CULTURAL POTENTIAL OF THE NATION KUBISCH

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